

## Claims

- [c1] A method of communicating information relating to a business objective between coworkers through use of a network that includes a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, said method comprising the steps of:
- receiving business objective information from a user via the device;
  - storing the received information in a data storage device;
  - comparing the received information with previously stored information;
  - generating output data relating to the business objective information; and
  - displaying the output data to the user via the device.
- [c2] The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving business objective information comprises the step of receiving business objective information for one or more coworkers.
- [c3] The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving input data comprises the step of generating a report of progress toward achieving the business objective.
- [c4] The method of Claim 3, wherein said step of generating a report comprises the step of generating a report relating to progress toward a business objective made by one or more coworkers.
- [c5] The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of providing the server with a user interface comprises the step of providing a selection page for a user to specify the business objective.
- [c6] The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of generating output data comprises the step of generating a report of progress toward a business objective.
- [c7] The method of Claim 6, wherein said step of generating a report comprises the step of generating a report relating to a performance appraisal.
- [c8] The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of generating output data comprises the step of assessing progress toward a business objective.
- [c9] The method of Claim 8 wherein said step of assessing progress toward a

business objective comprises the step of depicting progress toward a business objective on a graphic display.

[c10] The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of generating output data comprises the step of generating a report summarizing progress toward a business objective.

[c11] A system for communicating information relating to a business objective between coworkers, said system comprising:  
at least one computer;  
a server configured to read input data relating to the business objective and to output data relating to the business objective;  
a network connecting said server to said at least one computer; and  
a user interface installed on said at least one computer configured to allow a user to input the data to said server relating to the business objective and to receive the data from said server relating to the business objective.

[c12] The system of Claim 11, wherein said server further configured with a selection page for a user to specify the business objective of at least one coworker.

[c13] The system of Claim 11 wherein the output data comprise a report of the progress toward a business objective.

[c14] The system of Claim 13 wherein the report comprises a performance appraisal.

[c15] The system of Claim 11 wherein the output data comprises an assessment of progress toward a business objective.

[c16] The system of Claim 15, wherein the assessment of progress is depicted in a graphic display.

[c17] The system of Claim 11 wherein the output data comprise a report summarizing progress toward a business objective.

[c18] The system of Claim 11 wherein said server is further configured to store input data relating to each of a plurality of business objectives.

- [c19] The system of Claim 11 wherein said server further configured to allow the user to submit the input data via a network selected from the group consisting of the Internet and an intranet.
- [c20] The system of Claim 11 wherein said network is the Internet.
- [c21] The system of Claim 11 wherein said network is an intranet.
- [c22] The system of Claim 11 wherein said network is one of a wide area network and a local area network.
- [c23] The system of Claim 11 wherein said user interface is configured with at least one input field for receiving and storing the input data relating to a business objective.
- [c24] The system of Claim 11 wherein said server is configured to read the input data and to output data on the selected business objective, the output data including a graphic display of progress toward achieving the business objective.
- [c25] A computer programmed to:
  - prompt a user to access a network-based business objective application;
  - prompt a user to enter business objective information;
  - compare the entered information with information stored in a computer readable medium; and
  - output data relating to business objectives.
- [c26] A computer in accordance with Claim 25 further programmed to generate a report on progress toward achieving the business objective.
- [c27] A computer in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said computer programmed to prompt a user to enter business objective information by transmitting a selection page for the user to specify the business objective.
- [c28] A computer in accordance with Claim 25 further programmed to generate a performance appraisal report.
- [c29] A computer in accordance with Claim 25 further programmed to graphically

display a depiction of progress toward meeting a business objective.

[c30]

Apparatus comprising:

means for accessing a database including business objective information;

means for prompting a user to access the database;

means for receiving business objective information input by the user;

means for storing the received information in the database;

means for comparing the received information with previously stored objective information; and

means for displaying to the user information pertaining to the received information.

[c31]

Apparatus in accordance with Claim 30 further comprising means for generating a report of progress toward achieving a business objective.

[c32]

Apparatus in accordance with Claim 30 further comprising means for generating a report relating to a performance appraisal.

[c33]

Apparatus in accordance with Claim 30 further comprising means for depicting progress toward a business objective on a graphic display.

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